

**PARKS, RECREATION, & BEACHES BOARD MINUTES
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2020 – 6:30 P.M.
CITY HALL IS CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC**

Virtual Meeting

Cumulative Attendance

Board Members	Attendance	Present	Absent
Alex Collazo	P	1	0
Brucie Cummings	P	1	0
Caleb Gunter	A	0	1
Carey Villeneuve	P	1	0
Charlie Leikauf	P	1	0
Darren Heitner	P	1	0
Deborah Rosenbaum	P	1	0
Gale Butler	A	0	1
Jo Ann Smith	A	0	1
John T. Holmes <i>(New)</i>	A	0	1
Karen Polivka	P	1	0
Marianna Seiler	P	1	0
Mary Peloquin	P	1	0
Robert Payne	A	0	1
Tangerean Moore	P	1	0

Oct 2020 - Sept 2021

As of this date, there are 15 appointed members to the Board, which means 8 would constitute a quorum.

Staff

Phil Thornburg, *Parks & Recreation Director*
 Carl Williams, *Parks & Recreation Deputy Director*
 Kimberly Mosley, *Assistant City Attorney*
 Leona Osamor, *Grants Administrator*
 Zoie Saunders, *Chief Education Officer*
 Lisa Marie Glover, *Transportation Manager*
 Benjamin Restrepo, *Senior Project Manager*
 Edgardo Noceda, *IT Technical Support Technician*
 Johnny Rojas, *IT Technical Support Analyst*

Guest Speakers

Joseph Webb	Brian Shore
Mark Blanchard	Alan Zeman
John Crumpton	
Maria Rivera	
Fausto Gomez	
Naldo Gonzalez	

Roll Call

Chairperson Karen Polivka called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. Roll was called, and it was determined that a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Deborah Rosenbaum and seconded by Brucie Cummings, that the minutes of August 26, 2020 be approved. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

Chairperson Karen Polivka allotted a moment for the chairman of the Education and Advisory Board, Mr. Alan Zeman to provide an update on the Joint Use parks Initiative. Mr. Zeman stated that he was happy with the progress made with the initiative and eager to join the City of Fort Lauderdale residents and visitors who would soon be utilizing the various options of joint use parks made available throughout the City of Fort Lauderdale.

1. Department Updates

Deputy Director Carl Williams informed the board that the City of Fort Lauderdale recently hosted its first successful drive-thru event entitled LauderBoo at Snyder Park and will be hosting the event also at Osswald Park on October 31, 2020 from 1:00 pm to 5:00pm.

Mr. Williams informed the board that the City's E-Learning Program continues to make positive strides with the implementation of an after-school e-learning assistance program at Bass Park and Riverland Park.

Mr. Williams informed the board that during the month of November there will not be a parks board meeting but reminded members to mark their calendars for the next meeting scheduled for December 2, 2020.

The board was informed by Mr. Williams that the City of Fort Lauderdale had begun the playground construction projects at Hortt Park and Coontee Hatchee Park, which are expected to be completed by the end of the year.

Mr. Williams informed the board that with the recent resignation of former parks board member Martha G. Steinkamp, the board was now in need of a new parks board liaison to be the key point of contact at the Education and Advisory Board meetings for the purposes of the Joint Use Parks Initiative.

Motion was made by Mary Peloquin and seconded by Carey Villeneuve, that board member Deborah Rosenbaum be appointed to serve as the new board liaison on the Education and Advisory Board meetings for the Joint Use Parks Initiative. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

2. Parks Bond Update

Director of Parks and Recreation, Phil Thornburg made a brief recap on the progress made thus far with the Parks Bond Project. Mr. Thornburg reminded the board that Mr. Joseph Webb from AECOM and his team are tasked with overseeing the Parks Bond projects. The board was informed by Mr. Thornburg that the AECOM team would be conducting lots of community outreach virtually due to the risks associated with the Covid-19 pandemic. Mr. Thornburg stated that at present the proposed projects would be rolled out in phases beginning with community outreach and feedback, conceptual ideas, board approvals and public hearings, commission approvals and construction.

Mr. Joseph Webb briefly introduced himself and a few members on his team to the board. Mr. Webb informed the board that his goal throughout the ongoing parks board projects is to be as open and transparent. The board was informed by Mr. Webb that his team is currently developing a dashboard type landing page to provide the public with access to information on the status of projects and how funding from the parks bond is being utilized.

3. Tunnel Top Project Update

Mr. Fausto Gomez from the Florida Department of Transportation introduced himself and two of his associates namely Mr. Naldo Gonzalez, consultant and project manager and Mr. Brian Shore, Design consultant and landscape project manager on the Tunnel Top Project.

Mr. Gonzalez led the team in the presentation, providing an overview of the Tunnel Top Project. Mr. Gonzalez informed the board that the project entailed a three fold process which included the rehabilitation of the Henry E. Kinney tunnel, improvement of the safety and mobility along US-1 and the enhancement of the East Las Olas Boulevard at SE 6th Avenue for a livable community.

Mr. Shore presented the proposed key improvements at the Laura Ward Plaza that included features of a trail head for Riverwalk, artificial turf event space, water taxi improvements, vent shaft improvements and landscape plantings focused on the native canopy. Mr. Shore presented the proposed key improvements for the Riverside Hotel and ICON Plazas that included a redefined cohesive patterned pavement to enhance flowing concept, renovation of fountain and preservation of access to the Stranahan House. Mr. Shore also presented the proposed key improvements for the Tunnel Top Plaza that included terrace seating with an elevated view to the New River and an elevated artificial turf play space.

4. Board Comments

There were no board comments.

5. **Communications to the Commission**

There were no communications to the commission.

6. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 PM.